(b) to (d) A meeting was held on 24.12.2004 with the respresentatives of employees and employers as per provision under Section 15 of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946. The matter is still under consideration and will be decided in consultation with all the Stake holders.

New Programme for unorganised sector workers

966. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have embarked on major new Government funded programmes for unorganized sector workers, and urban renewal;

(b) if so, the details worked out in this regard;

(c) the projects identified for this purpose;

(d) whether Government have drawn up any action plan for additional resources for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Increase in **the unemployment**

967. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent report of the ILO has pointed out that in spite of growth in reducing poverty and improving the living conditions of the people, unemployment reached a record high in India; and

(b) if so, the response of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) The ILO report titled "Labour and Social Trends in Asia and the Pacific 2005" have analysed the trends in the economic growth and the employment growth in the Asia and Pacific countries including India. As per the report, since 1999, the Indian economy has grown by 5.9% per year whereas unemployment rate has gone up from 2.2% in 1995 to 4.3% in 2000.

(b) Estimates of employment and unemployment in India are obtained through National Sample Surveys carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation. As per these surveys, unemployment rate on usual status basis has marginally gone up from 1.90% in 1993-94 to 2.23% in 1999-2000. Persons living below the poverty line have declined from around 36% in 1993-94 to 26% in 1999-2000.

Employees working in I.T. Sector

968. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation have been received during the year 2005 from Central Trade Unions regarding the need to implement labour laws in the Information Technology (IT) sector;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard;

(c) if so, whether is any proposal to dilute the present labour laws in Information Technology sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total number of employees working in Information Technology sector under various categories for the last three years, category-wise, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The State Governments are the "appropriate Government" under the various labour laws and legally vested with the powers to deal with the enforcement of labour laws in information technology sector. Information Technology and Information Technology enabled services are covered under existing labour laws. Accordingly, State Governments have been requested to take appropriate action in getting the labour law implementation reviewed expeditiously.

(e) The desired Information is not centrally maintained.